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TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY,
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

No. 136

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CONTENTS

WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

Sweden's LM Ericsson New Telecommunications Contracts in Saudi Arabia (Johan Myrsten; SVENSKA DAGBLADET, 23 Sep 80)	1
--	---

Briefs

Taiwan-Canada Open Facsimile Service	3
Afghan-Bulgarian Protocol Signed	3
Morocco, Sudan Sign Agreement	3
Taiwan-S. Africa Open Radiophoto Service	4

ASIA

INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

Briefs

Asian-Pacific News Agency Proposed	5
------------------------------------	---

MONGOLIA

Briefs

MPR Radio Relay Line	6
----------------------	---

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

First National Conference Held on Radio in Over 14 Years (XINHUA, 7 Oct 80)	7
--	---

THAILAND

Telephone Organization Reports New Area Codes (TAWAN SIAM, 5 Aug 80)	8
---	---

LATIN AMERICA

MEXICO

Briefs

Satellite Link Stations	10
-------------------------	----

NICARAGUA

Briefs

New Radio Station Established 11

NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

KUWAIT

Briefs

News Agency Headquarters 12

LEBANON

New Telephone Installations Inaugurated

(AL-NAHAR, 6 Aug 80) 13

Briefs

New Radio Name 17

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

'PANA' Official Visits Seychelles To Determine Needs

(NATION, 29 Sep 80) 18

Briefs

African News Agency Official 19

WEST EUROPE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Europe Catching Up With U.S. Comsat Technology

(Jean-Francois Augereau; LE MONDE, 20 Sep 80) 20

Briefs

Largest Macroeconomic Data Bank 23

FRANCE

Data Bank Usage Spreads, More Publishers Needed

(Philippe Collier; LE MONDE, 20 Sep 80) 24

Ground Forces Communications Arm Viewed in Some Detail

(TAM, 11 Sep 80) 28

SWEDEN

Country To Build Research Satellite

(Hans Rehnvall; SVENSKA DAGBLADET, 22 Aug 80) 32

SWEDEN'S LM ERICSSON NEW TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONTRACTS IN SAUDI ARABIA

Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 23 Sep 80 p 29

[Report by Johan Myrsten]

[Text] Sweden's biggest export order ever, LM Ericsson's telephone project in Saudi Arabia in collaboration with Philips, is growing by several billion kronor a year. Today the total amount of the order is about 16 billion kronor, and by 1985 it may very well be up to 25 to 30 billion, fairly equally divided between LM [Ericsson] and Philips.

Of the amount of the order, about half goes into work that is carried out by subcontractors in Saudi Arabia, e.g. the South Korean construction giant Dong Ah. The rest is for equipment, installation work, and maintenance that is ordered from Europe. Of LM's orders amounting at present to a good 8 billion kronor, therefore, there is about 4 billion that shows up or will show up in LM's balance sheet.

When the original contract was signed in 1978 the order to LM and Philips was about 10 billion kronor. Since then it has been increased twice, the last time in April 1980, when the order grew by 2.5 billion to 16 billion kronor.

That the huge order already promises to become still bigger is based on the fact that an amount of about 30 billion kronor has been appropriated in Saudi Arabia's 5-year plan for 1980-1985 for continued expansion of telecommunications.

There are strong indications that LM and Philips will get a considerable part of the 30 billion kronor:

1. Saudi Arabia is now building up its telephone network with LM's and Philips's technology (the core of which is LM's AXE system), and this makes it hard for the country to change its main supplier.

2. LM and Philips have done their job well. The project is ahead of schedule, in spite of the fact that in places Saudi Arabia has very difficult working conditions.

Saudi Arabia's next objective is to attain a coverage of at least 12 subscribers per 100 inhabitants (Sweden has over 70). But in the long run the objective is considerably higher. By 1990 the country wants to have the world's most modern communications system--and that would involve additional multibillion-kronor investments from 1985 to 1990.

Björn Svedberg, LM's managing director, will not disclose just how profitable the Saudi Arabia project is. But he has stated that the order yields a profit and that the firm is satisfied with the margins.

The customer pays promptly and directly. LM and Philips have put in bills thus far amounting to 9 billion kronor. Five percent of the payment for part of the supplies is withheld, however, until the project is completed and accepted by the customer.

The parties to the contract are the Saudi Arabia Ministry of Post, Telephone, and Telegraph on the one hand and a joint-venture corporation Philips/LM on the other.

The same commission covers providing Saudi Arabia with 800,000 new subscriber lines and modernizing the 200,000 existing lines.

8815

CSO: 5500

WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

TAIWAN-CANADA OPEN FACSIMILE SERVICE--Taipei, Oct 8 (CNA)--The Chinese Government Radio Administration will open the high-speed facsimile service between the Republic of China and Canada from October 9, an official of the Ministry of Communication said Wednesday. In order to improve the telegraphic service so as to further promote economic relations between the two countries, the high-speed facsimile telegraph is an absolute necessity, the official said. The two-way trade between the two countries amounted to U.S. dollars 387 million January-July this year. [Text] [OW081401 Taipei CNA in English 1341 GMT 8 Oct 80]

AFGHAN-BULGARIAN PROTOCOL SIGNED--The cultural cooperation protocol between Radio Afghanistan and Radio Bulgaria was recently signed in Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria. On the basis of this protocol, radio material and radio programs will be exchanged between the parties and the Bulgarian side has agreed to put at the disposal of Radio Afghanistan--yearly--a number of fellowships. This protocol which was signed on 1 October 1980 is for the duration of two years. The protocol was signed for the Afghan side by Latif (?Nuria'i), director of publication of Radio Afghanistan and for the Bulgarian radio. The director of publication of Radio Afghanistan upon the invitations of the relevant authorities of the USSR, MPR and Bulgaria visited these countries and returned home recently. He also participated in the Conference of Asia and African Writers in Ulaan Baatar and the Conference of World Writers in Sofia. [Text] [LD101626 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Oct 80]

MOROCCO, SUDAN SIGN AGREEMENT--Rabat, 10 Oct (MAP)--The Moroccan information minister, Dr Abdel Wahid Belakziz, and visiting Sudanese minister of information and culture, Dr Isma'il al-Haj Musa, concluded here Thursday a cooperation agreement stipulating the exchange of radio and television information, documentation, and experience as well as cooperation at bilateral level and at the Arab, African and international levels. On the other hand, Mr Abdeljalil Fenjiro, director of the Moroccan News Agency "Maghreb Arabe Presse," and Mr Faysal Mahmud Khadr, director of information at the Sudanese Ministry of Information and Culture, concluded another cooperation agreement. This agreement organizes the professional and technical relations between the two countries' news agencies and more especially

regarding the direct telegraphic connection aimed at exchanging news bulletins, photos, and documents. The agreement also stipulates the granting of necessary facilities to the correspondents of the two agencies. [Text] [LD101408 Rabat MAP in English 1214 GMT 10 Oct 80]

TAIWAN-S. AFRICA OPEN RADIOPHOTO SERVICE--Taipei, Oct 13 (CNA)--The International Telecommunications Administration (ITA) opened a direct radiophoto service between the Republic of China and the Republic of South Africa October 10, ahead of the original schedule, to speed up the news interflow between the two countries on the occasion of the visit of South African Prime Minister P. W. Botha and his entourage to this country. In addition ITA will open a special telephone service between Taipei and Capetown exclusively for Prime Minister Botha during his stay. Prices of radiophoto service between the two countries are NT dollars 1,800 (U.S. dollars 50) per 150 square mm, and NT dollars 900 for an additional 100 square mm, ITA said, adding that the ceiling area for a photo will be 350 square mm. In addition to South Africa, ITA has extended radiophoto services to Italy, Japan, Hong Kong, Korea, the Phillippines, Singapore, Thailand, Britain, West German and the United States. [Text] [OW131451 Taipei CNA in English 1347 GMT 13 Oct 80]

CSO: 5500

INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

ASIAN-PACIFIC NEWS AGENCY PROPOSED--Taipei, Oct 9 (CNA)--The Philippine delegation Thursday proposed at the 16th General Assembly [of] the Asian Parliamentarians' Union to establish an Asian-Pacific News Agency to promote balanced news interflow in this region. The proposal said that Western mass media are (?inclined) to report the negative side of the countries in the Third World, purposely neglecting the efforts of those nations in their struggle for independence, sovereignty and survival. The Philippine delegates proposed to organize national news agencies in the Asian and Pacific area into a transnational news organization to resist the Western communications imperialism and provide an accurate and balanced news service in this region. [Text] [OW091603 Taipei CNA in English 1354 GMT 9 Oct 80]

CSO: 5500

MONGOLIA

BRIEFS

MPR RADIO RELAY LINE--Ulaanbaatar, 3 Oct (MONTSAME)--Today's papers prominently published reports on the commissioning of the new Arvaheer-Bayanhongor section of radio relay line being built with the manpower and funds of the Soviet Union as a gift to the MPR. [Text] [OW100513 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 0504 GMT 4 Oct 80]

CSO: 5500

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE HELD ON RADIO IN OVER 14 YEARS

OWO71550 Beijing XINHUA in English 1533 GMT 7 Oct 80

[Text] Beijing, October 7 (XINHUA)--China now has 99 central and local broadcasting stations. This nationwide network is relayed through radio re-diffusion stations throughout the country.

Radio Peking [as received] broadcasts overseas in 38 languages.

All provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, except Tibet, have TV stations, totalling 38. Television started in China in 1958. TV service is now under construction in Tibet.

Zhang Xiangshan, director of the Central Broadcasting Administration, announced these facts at the country's first national conference on broadcasting since the "cultural revolution." It opened today with 200 delegates attending. The last conference was convened in April, 1966.

Zhang Xiangshan in his opening speech stressed the following points:

--radio and TV news have recovered their truthfulness after the smashup of the gang of four;

--programmes are more varied and receive favourable comments from viewers;

--the central task of the radio and the TV is to serve economic construction and China's modernization;

--news comments will concentrate on economic affairs, followed in importance by topics of socialist democracy and law;

--international news coverage will be prompter;

--theatre, cinema and art will be given more time;

--importance is attached to vocational training through radio and TV classes, which already have 400,000 regular students; lessons will be given in localities for primary school teachers, village doctors and farm mechanics;

--more contacts with listeners and viewers will be encouraged;

--more coverage will be given to programmes of wide public interest, such as market and everyday life.

CSO: 5500

THAILAND

TELEPHONE ORGANIZATION REPORTS NEW AREA CODES

Bangkok TAWAN SIAM in Thai 5 Aug 80 p 2

[Announcement by the Telephone Organization of Thailand;
issued 15 July 1980]

[Text] Concerning the opening of automatic long-distance telephone service between the Bangkok metropolitan telephone area and other regions, there have been additions for some areas.

Beginning at 1200 hours on 1 August, the Telephone Organization of Thailand will open automatic long-distance telephone service between the Bangkok metropolitan telephone area and various provinces in the Central Region (some parts) and the northeast (all areas). There will be a total of 50 exchanges as follows:

Area code 035 is the exchange for Ayuthaya, Wangnoi, Bang Pha In, Phachai, Tharua, Supnanburi, Song Phi Nong and Ang Thong.

Area code 036 is the exchange for Saraburi, Phra Phutthabat, Ban Mo, Kaengkhoei, Lopburi, Ban Mi, Khoksamrong, Lamnarai and Singburi.

Area code 042 is the exchange for Udorn Thani, Kumphawapi, Nong Bua Lamphu, Nong Khai, Thabo, Si Chiang Mai, Loei, Chiang Khan, Sakon Nakhon, Sawang Daendin, Nakhon Phanom and Mukdahan.

Area code 043 is the exchange for Khon Kaen, Ban Phaiphon, Chumphae, Roi Et, Kalasin and Maha Sarakham.

Area code 044 is the exchange for Nakhon Ratchasima, Pakchong, Sikhieu, Buayai, Pakthongchai, Chaiyaphum and Buriram.

Area code 045 is the exchange for Ubon Ratchathani, Amnat Charoen, Phibunmangahan, Khongchiem, Surin, Sisaket and Yasothon.

Telephone users in the Bangkok metropolitan telephone area must dial the three-digit long-distance area code of one of the long-distance exchanges mentioned above and then dial the number they want. For example, to dial long-distance from Bangkok to the number 23-7200 in Khon Kaen, the person must dial 043-23-7200.

On this same occasion, the Telephone Organization is opening automatic long-distance telephone service from the exchanges in the Central Region (some parts) and in the northeast (all areas). People from all 50 exchanges mentioned above can dial direct to the Bangkok metropolitan telephone area by dialing the long-distance area code 02 and then dialing the number desired. For example, to dial long-distance to the number 245-1422 in Bangkok, the caller must dial 02-245-1422.

Note: In using automatic long-distance dialing, the number desired must be dialed after the long-distance area code and, before dialing the desired number, the caller must wait 10-15 seconds until he hears the dial tone.

Service charges for unassisted long-distance telephone calls will follow a new rate. Charges will be computed based on the number of minutes the call actually lasted. A fraction of a minute will be charged as a full minute (there will be no basic rate for the first 3 minutes). Between 1900 and 0600 hours the next day, the service charge will be lowered by half.

If a caller wishes to have operator assistance in placing a long-distance call between exchanges that have opened automatic long-distance service, a charge of 10 baht per call during the day and 20 baht per call during the night will be added on to the service charge above. An exception to this is that, if the person goes and uses the long-distance telephone service at the telephone office, he does not have to pay this extra charge.

BRIEFS

SATELLITE LINK STATIONS--Mexico City, 8 Oct (EFE)--By 1982, all of Mexico's territory will be covered by television and telephone, Secretary of Communications Emilio Mujica Montoya announced today. Mujica signed a contract with Emilio Azcarraga, president of Televisa, one of the world's most important Spanish-speaking television companies, for the construction of 80 satellite link stations to send television and telephone signals. Televisa will invest some \$8.8 million in the construction of 46 stations of this kind according to the stipulations of the Mexican authorities. The secretariat of communications and transports, meanwhile, will build 34 other stations at a cost of \$3 million. The agreement, according to Mujica, is in line with the wishes of the government, with the support of Televisa, to expand the nation's communications infrastructures. Mujica stated at the signing ceremony that the television and telephone signals will reach 25 to 30 percent of the nation's population, which up to now was without this commodity in some 9,000 small towns. He added that Mexico is already looking into having its own satellite and that it has contacted France and Canada, among other countries, for this purpose. However, he explained that this will not be possible for 4 years. Therefore, use of the existing satellite is foreseen and Mexico has the collaboration of Televisa. Miguel Aleman, executive vice president of Televisa, commented that the agreement is an example of joint effort for the good of the nation. [Text] [PA110111 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0417 GMT 9 Oct 80]

CSO: 5500

BRIEFS

NEW RADIO STATION ESTABLISHED--Radio 13 de Octubre will be officially opened today as part of the activities scheduled to commemorate the attack on the San Carlos Garrison on 13 October 1977. The radio station will be a member of the Sandinist communications media system and will be located on the San Carlos departmental highway. It will serve to further one of the revolutionary government's strategic missions. This radio station represents one more effort by the government to counter the propaganda of foreign radio stations which often distort the process underway in Nicaragua. Companero Jesus Miguel Blandon, director of Radio Sandino and official in charge of the radio stations of the Sandinist communications system, explains the efforts made to establish this radio station and its functions within the framework of the revolution. [Begin recording] It was necessary to establish this radio station in order to help the communications with San Carlos department, since at present San Carlos can be reached only by airplane because the highway is in very bad shape and it takes anywhere from 19 to 24 hours to make the trip by launch. [end recording] [Excerpts] [PA131616 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Oct 80]

CSO: 5500

KUWAIT

BRIEFS

NEWS AGENCY HEADQUARTERS--The Kuwait News Agency, KUNA, is to build a new headquarters following recently-announced world-wide expansion plans. Overseas offices are to be established, linked by a highly-sophisticated communications network via satellite operating 24 hours a day. KUNA aims to become the largest news agency in the Middle East. Tenders for the new building in central Kuwait will be invited next month. [Text] [GF111230 Manama GULF MIRROR in English 11-17 Oct 80 p 2]

CSO: 5500

NEW TELEPHONE INSTALLATIONS INAUGURATED

Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 6 Aug 80 p 4

[Article: "Al-Murr Dedicates Four New Telephone Sections at the Main Telephone and Post Office Building; 30,000 New Telephone Lines Added During the Past Year"]

[Excerpts] Lebanese minister of post, telegraph and telephone, Engineer Michel Murr, dedicated four new telephone sections at the main telephone building on Riyad al-Sulh Street on Beirut.

The following sections were dedicated on the lower floors of the building:

1. The power center which supplies electricity to the international centers and secures continuous communications with all the terminal stations.
2. The signal carrier section which adds 3,000 lines connecting the capital with all the provinces.
3. The international center which doubles the present 700 international lines to 1,400.

A Press Conference

On the fourth floor of the building, Mr Murr held a press conference during which he answered questions, explained the accomplishments of the outgoing cabinet and responded to some accusations. Mr Murr opened the press conference as follows:

"In spite of the [troubled] security and political situation in the country, and in spite of the resignation of the cabinet, we felt we should come to this place to dedicate the new equipment installed during the past year.

"We are in the main telephone building on Riyad al-Sulh Street. This building houses the main international telephone center, the main national "A.R.M." center which connects Beirut with all other areas, and the central exchange for no less than 500,000 telephone lines.

"A very large amount of new equipment has been added to this central complex of the telephone system during the past year. All international, national and regional lines have been doubled, and all new lines can become operative this month.

"We are here on the Lebanese soil, at the telephone headquarters of Lebanon, and we are in the government to serve all of Lebanon. Whenever we accomplish a job related to the telephone system, we do not consider the geographic location of the improvement. We provide it regardless of its location. As far as we are concerned, Lebanon is an indivisible entity from north to south and from east to west.

"We are at the headquarters of the telephone system, where the equipment has been greatly increased during the past year, contrary to what rumors say. The equipment has doubled or even tripled and quadrupled during the past year. This is what I wanted to explain to all of you during this dedication ceremony. You have seen the equipment on the various floors, and I would like to answer any questions you may have."

Questions and Answers

[Question] It is said that some equipment has been transferred from these headquarters to specific areas. Is this accusation against the ministry true?"

[Answer] First of all, I reject the term accusation. Second, I have read the report you are referring to that the administration has transferred some equipment. This is totally untrue. The telephone administration has doubled the equipment in this center. I repeat that the telephone administration does not recognize a telephone center by its geographic location. We do not differentiate between one location and another, since all locations are Lebanese.

[Question] What is the number of new telephone lines installed and how are they distributed geographically?

[Answer] Some 30,000 new telephone lines have been installed during the past year. We do not consider them distributed according to a specific scheme. Some 16,000 lines have been installed south of the Damascus highway, and some 14,500 lines have been installed north of it. It is a balanced distribution without intention to make it so. The population of Lebanon is fairly well distributed. For this reason the installation of telephone lines is automatically well-balanced. We do not recognize north, south, east or west. We know of one Lebanon and we believe in it.

[Question] What, in your opinion, are the practical results of complaints received by the ministry concerning needed telephone repairs?

[Answer] Repair work is needed on a daily basis for a telephone network that serves 150,000 customers. We have repeatedly said that in spite of the number of lines that need repair, the telephone administration cannot adequately perform its duties under current security conditions, due to the lack of manpower and needed equipment. It is not possible for the administration to overhaul and reequip a 30-year-old system in a matter of one month or one year.

In addition to that, the Lebanese budget cannot bear the necessary appropriations for the installation of a brand new network in the full sense of the word. For this reason, I say that we have installed a new network with a capacity of 30,000 lines. If we can add 30,000 or 40,000 new lines during the coming years, we will have built a new network on a gradual basis.

[Question] Is it possible to know the amount spent on developing this network since your appointment?

[Answer] I can give you an approximate figure of 15 to 20 million Lebanese pounds. In other words 15 to 20 million Lebanese pounds worth of equipment have been installed at the main telephone center during the past year.

As for Ra's al-Nab' Center, it has been under construction for 3 months, and will require another 9 months to complete. It will be a main electronic center and the ministry is devoting full attention to it.

[Question] Is it true that the balanced distribution of telephone lines was accidental, or were there specific instructions on your part?

[Answer] I have already said that it was accidental, because the Lebanese population is well distributed. I do not give any instructions based on any specific geographic considerations, and I would never allow any official in the telephone administration to apply concepts which are not in keeping with a sense of national responsibility.

[Question] Is there any serious planning for the installation of new networks or stations which would link the remote areas such as eastern and western al-Biqā'?

[Answer] In all districts, we have awarded contracts for telephone networks which will link all these districts together. In al-Biqā', a contract has been awarded to install an automatic exchange which will link three or four stations together. Sha'b Station, which was destroyed during the recent disturbances will link Ba'labakk with al-Hirmil al-Jadidah, Rashaya in western al-Biqā', al-Shaykh 'Abdallah, the main station at Dahr al-Baydar, and al-Sultan Ya'cub. Similar work will be done in north Lebanon. A contract has been awarded to install a main center at a location called Mar 'Ilyas. It will link Hadath al-Jubbah

with Baharri, Tripoli and al-Batrun. In addition to that, the ministry is installing a new cable connecting Tripoli with Beirut. This cable will be completed within the next 3 months.

As for the south, the ministry is installing a station in 'Ubay to replace the station of Jabal Safi. This station which will cover Saïda and the entire south will be ready to operate very shortly.

This does not mean that we have neglected important close areas such as Juniyah, al-Jabal and 'Alay which are served by wireless, or by cables which will be completed within a period of 2 to 8 months.

[Question] What about the al-Tayyuni cable?

[Answer] It is sometimes improper to ask a certain question, and against the public interest to answer it. We succeeded in installing the Opera area cable inspite of road blocks and danger to the lives of our employees. We are now following the same methods to install the cable of al-Tayyuni. We did not announce this earlier for the protection of our employees who are working hard for the success of their second mission. I am giving this information since you asked. I have asked the crews to continue their work, and told them there will be a sizeable reward.

[Question] How many telephone lines have been installed during this part [sic] of the life of this government?

[Answer] The number of new telephone subscribers reached 17,000 within a period of 1 year. This is equivalent to the total number of new subscribers since 1973. These new lines are equally distributed among the various Lebanese areas.

By the end of 1981, we will have 210,000 new lines (electronic) distributed among all Lebanese areas. At that point, supply will exceed demand, and the ministry will be able to provide telephone service to everyone. This program should be accomplished according to a time schedule drawn up for this purpose.

[Question] What about telex service?

[Answer] There is one telex station on Riyad al-Sulh Street with a capacity of 1,000 telex lines. There are no telex centers in al-Dawra and other areas. Reports on the existence of such centers are meant to create confusion.

8988

CSO: 5500

LEBANON

BRIEFS

NEW RADIO NAME--The forces of the revolution today marched on the information media--broadcasting, press, news agency, printing presses, cultural institutions, theaters external information, theatrical groups and the cinema in addition to publishing, circulation and information and information programs and have placed them under vigilant revolutionary control, which leads to a successful revolutionary remedy. This historic march has taken place today. This radio of yours, Arab brothers, and masses of all the world peoples who are hungry for freedom and who look anxiously to emancipation and final deliverance--this radio of yours from today will become the radio of the voice of the Arab homeland [Idhaat Sawt al-Watan al-Arabi], the voice of the popular revolution, the voice of the revolution of the future. [Excerpts] [LD072247 Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2015 GMT 7 Oct 80]

CSO: 5500

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

'PANA' OFFICIAL VISITS SEYCHELLES TO DETERMINE NEEDS

Victoria NATION in English 29 Sep 80 pp 1, 2

[Excerpt] A representative of the Pan African News Agency project (PANA) was in Seychelles during the weekend on a two-day visit to check on local communications facilities and to assess the needs of Seychelles Agence Presse to receive and transmit news to PANA headquarters.

Mr Mohamed Khair Osman, who is also director of the technical department of the Sudanese News Agency, visited the headquarters of the Government Information Services, at Union Vale, and held discussions with officials of the Seychelles Agence Presse (SAP).

Seychelles is a member of the PANA East Africa regional pool and is expecting help from PANA for its equipment requirements to receive and transmit news despatches to the headquarters.

PANA East Africa regional pool has its headquarters in Khartoum, the Sudanese capital, hosted by the Sudanese News Agency, while the headquarters of the whole operation are in Dakar, Senegal.

The East Africa regional pool has announced its readiness to start operations next year and is already making trial transmissions.

News despatches from the member countries will be sent to the regional headquarters which, in turn, will be transmitted to the main headquarters in Dakar. The main headquarters will then retransmit the news all over Africa and the world.

CSO: 5500

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY OFFICIAL--Khartoum, 12 October (SUNA)--Technical consultant of the Pan African News Agency (PANA), Mohamed Khir Osman, returned here today concluding a 27-day East African tour. In Ethiopia, Tanzania, Kenya, Malagasi, Mauritius, Seychelles, Somalia and Djibouti Osman discussed with information officials technical facilities needed for the establishment of PANA's East Africa pool. Osman, who is also the engineering manager of Sudan News Agency (SUNA), reviewed draft agreement on cooperation between SUNA and the national news agencies of those countries. [Text] [LD130956 Khartoum SUNA in English 1705 GMT 12 Oct 80]

CS0: 5500

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

EUROPE CATCHING UP WITH U. S. COMSAT TECHNOLOGY

Paris LE MONDE in French 20 Sep 80 pp 35-37

[Article by Jean-Francois Augereau: "An Opportunity for Europeans To Seize"]

[Excerpt] There was a time when space communications industrialists were bemoaning the fact, not without some bitterness, that there were more satellite builders than prospective satellite users. At that time, the technical and financial risks involved were not such as to reassure industrialists tempted to try their luck, particularly those manufacturers who were not lucky enough to be bolstered when entering this field by large earnings from their substantial military communications programs.

Those days are gone, however, and the situation has definitely changed since then. Many people have now forgotten what a technical feat it really was when France was linked to North America via the Telstar satellite 20 years ago. Such links are an everyday matter now that all of the satellite systems orbiting the earth have brought the continents within telephone range.

Space communications has become a highly promising, full-fledged economic activity in which there is fierce industrial competition.

American industry--Hughes Aircraft, Ford Aerospace, TRW, etc.--is, of course, still the obvious leader in this field. But European manufacturers whose skills and at times original technical methods have been recognized, are beginning to force open the long-closed doors to this club. They are not full-fledged members of the club as yet, even though their joint achievements--OTS [Orbital Test Satellite], Meteosat, and Symphonie--are proof of their know-how. But they are still waiting to win their first communications satellite contract abroad. There is one satisfying development, however. Their achievements have enabled them to become associated with contracts and programs awarded to American companies.

A 12 Billion Dollar Market

At the present time, every one wants to capture--alone or by joining with other firms--the largest share of this market which some experts estimate

will amount to some 12 billion dollars for the next 10 years: 8 billion dollars for supplying new systems and 4 billion for replacing existing systems.

In addition to such essentially global communications satellite systems as Intelsat, an international organization with more than 100 member nations, or Intersputnik, the Eastern bloc's organization, there are now purely regional or national systems. While the global systems have already replaced their satellites several times to meet mounting trans-oceanic traffic requirements, the regional and national systems are currently in the development stage. For this reason, developing countries, whose ground-based telephone communications facilities are frequently nonexistent, are ideal customers, as evidenced by the interest shown in communications satellites by Colombia, Brazil, the Arab countries, Indonesia, India, etc.

All of this contributes to the launching of increasingly more powerful and increasingly more numerous satellites. Today there are 75 communications satellites operating in geosynchronous orbit at an altitude of 36,000 kilometers. Others already built are about to be launched either by NASA or by Europe.

This is, therefore, an expanding market as evidenced by the growth of international communications. The reader can judge for himself: requests for telephone channels--it takes two to constitute a circuit and establish a complete communications link--received by Intelsat have increased at an average annual rate of 17 percent. Better still, during the past 2 years this rate has reached the 25 percent mark, an exceptional and purely cyclic development.

Intelsat currently handles two-thirds of the intercontinental traffic above the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans. In its traffic forecasts, Intelsat estimates that in 1993 it will have to handle 300,000 requests for telephone channels, and nearly 1 million by the end of the century, compared with merely 45,000 requests at the present time.

The systems in orbit will not be sufficient and new satellites will have to be launched, both to reinforce the existing network and establish new means of communication.

The latest Intelsat contract for seven heavy Intelsat 5 satellites amounted to 235 million dollars in 1976. Another more recent market has been added to this especially large global market, namely the domestic and regional satellite systems employing either separate satellites--North America, Indonesia, and more recently France--or using leased capacity on satellites used for international communications. The Canadians, with their Telesat domestic system, and the Americans, with their Westar, Comstar, and Satcom systems, set the pattern in this field and have been followed by many others.

This expanding sector appears to be full of promise judging from the various studies which estimate that by 1989 domestic and regional satellite systems should be handling about 500,000 circuits. This would mean a market of approximately 1 billion francs during the period 1979-1989, and two-thirds of that market would be open to competition. It must be noted, however, that because of their development, the industrialized countries have capacities that are rapidly becoming saturated. This phenomenon is already noticeable in the United States, and there is no doubt that it will reach Europe with a lag of 2 years, thereby making domestic and regional systems products primarily for export.

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CSO: 5500

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

LARGEST MACROECONOMIC DATA BANK--The International Data Processing Services Company (CISI), a subsidiary of the Atomic Energy Commission, has signed an agreement with the European Community for establishment of Europe's largest macroeconomic data bank. This bank, designated Chronos Eurostat, will contain a collection of some 600,000 macroeconomic series concerning 23 different subject areas, such as agriculture, industrial production, fisheries, developing countries, imports and exports within the EEC, etc. All of the information offered by this data bank will represent the equivalent of 400,000 typed pages. This data will be compiled and formulated by the European Bureau of Statistics and distributed by the CISI. It will be available in early 1981 via the Euronet and Transpac data transmission systems. [Text] [Paris LE MONDE in French 20 Sep 80 p 41] 8041

CSO: 5500

DATA BANK USAGE SPREADS, MORE PUBLISHERS NEEDED

Paris LE MONDE in French 20 Sep 80 pp 35, 38

[Article by Philippe Collier "The Worrisome Lack of French Publishers"-- passages between slantlines originally published in italics]

[Excerpts] Every day, somewhere in the world a new data bank is created. All the studies made in the United States and Europe are in agreement in predicting very rapid growth for this new sector of activity. The American market should quadruple in 5 years, to reach 4.5 billion dollars; the European market should triple in 10 years, going from 600 million dollars in 1979 to 1.7 billion in 1988. As for the French market, it should, if the objectives set by the public authorities are met, nearly double each year, and reach 700 million francs in 1984, compared to 15 million in 1979.

Europe, and especially France, only emerged from the nearly total domination by the United States of the electronic information market in 1978. The Aigran report on scientific and technical information, the Nora-Minc report on the computerization of society, and the Lenoir-Prot report on economic and social information, played a triggering role. So now the strategic, economic, political and cultural stakes in information are out in broad daylight.

Europe is certainly not without data banks, but they are dispersed and not easily accessible, thus little utilized.

Out of 1,165 systems in existence at the start of 1979, 531, or 45 percent are of European origin. More, only 29 percent of these 531 systems are accessible by telematics, whereas of the 634 made elsewhere, that is to say, primarily in the United States, 63 percent have on-line access. The United States has not failed to exploit this situation. Out of the 110 data banks currently proposed by Lockheed, the biggest American dealer, half originate in Europe!

The big American information dealers would thus stand to do at least 20 percent of their turnover in Europe. Lockheed would do about 4,000 hours a month on the Old Continent, and System Development Corporation (SDC) about 2,000 hours a month, of which about 400 would be oil industry activities on the APILIT and APIPAT index-cards. By way of comparison, the biggest European Space Agency, should do about 2,500 hours, while the French dealers all together would barely do 1,000 hours. As to French users under United States control, they would handle about 2,500 hours monthly, four-fifths of this being the activities of about 10 big firms in the fields of chemistry, oil, and pharmaceuticals.

Filling the Big Gaps

Faced with this situation, France in 1979 started on an active policy to create, between now and 1984, a national information industry that is /"competitive, profitable, and exportable."/ For its part, the Commission of the European communities has put in place a 5-year plan aiming at the creation, by 1985, of /"500 new data banks that in no way duplicate American services."/ In the first place, it was necessary to put in place data transmission networks emphasizing access and long distance interrogation of existing document stores.

France, with Transpac, was the first EEC country to have such a public network, while, on the European scene, the Euronet network was inaugurated last February. Despite their growing pains, still frequent, the networks offer the unique feature of tariffing without regard to distance and [rates] about 10 times lower than those using the classical telephone network. Euronet tariffs are also much lower than those of the transatlantic Tymnet and Telenet. European users are thus motivated to /"buy European."/

Along the same lines, many information service firms have opened departments /"dealing"/ in data banks, where they play a sort of intermediating role between the makers and the users of the banks. With the help of major information processing resources, their role consists in offering a commercially exploitable service. Today some 30 dealers are hooked up to Euronet, representing the effective or soon to be complete link-up of 193 data banks.

Since the beginning of 1979, five major dealers have started up in France: SPI (an affiliate of Pechiney-Ugine-Kuhlmann), Telesystemes (an indirect affiliate of PTT, supported by the public authorities at the level of 75 million francs over 5 years), CISI (a subsidiary of CEA), and, more recently, "G. CAM" (a subsidiary of Societe Generale). Not to forget the producing dealers which in narrowly focused scientific fields offer only a single bank, such as Pluridata, Thermodata, Ergodata....

The third field of governmental activity concerns improvement and creation of new data banks. In these terms, two complementary policies must be distinguished.

That of the ministry of industry underwrites plans to create and commercially exploit data banks of short-term profitability. The support given, in the form of a development contract, could reach 50 percent of investments over 5 years, but must be reimbursed in case it goes sour. That is to say, this type of procedure arouses little competition in the private sector. To this date, only a few contracts have been signed.

The Interministerial Task Force on Scientific and Technical Information (MIDIST) was for its part designed to support the creation of 50 new data banks for specialized data between now and 1984. This year, 20 pilot projects, selected from those who responded to a first call for proposals, are benefiting from a 2-million franc subsidy. A new one has just brought 130 responses, of which 30 percent come from the private sector. This form of assistance is meeting a better reception, for it involves less risk in a field where the new entrepreneurs still find it difficult to control their costs.

Start With the Needs of the Users

At the community level, the European Commission has put out a call for proposals, to promote systems on the international scale. It has received 266 responses, of which 97 are of private sector origin and 80 are from France.

The still-infant French information industry is pushing toward rapid growth. At the start, the public authorities were first of all concerned to put in place the resources and to create a dynamic, before dealing with substantive problems answering to specific needs. The users must have felt themselves quite forgotten in this take-off stage.

The dealers /"loaded"/ their computers from existing data banks without too much concerning themselves with their quality. /"Most of the present systems were developed by the makers (that is to say basically public entities) without serious analysis of the needs of the potential users,"/ says the Lenoir report bluntly.

One also notes other major gaps. Relatively well supplied with scientific and technical data banks, France lacks numerical, factual, and textual data banks, in the fields of economic, financial, juridical, industrial project, and press information...Most of the European banks offer bibliographic references, while in the United States, data banks delivering directly utilizable information account for 80 percent of the revenues of the industry, compared to only 20 percent offering only bibliography!

The first objective, which was to reduce French dependence while /"recap-turing"/ the users from the American systems, has not been attained: these users, in reduced numbers, but nevertheless being big consumers, are not ready to change their habits from one day to the next, and in great majority remain convinced of the superiority of the systems on the other side of the Atlantic, considering their needs.

From the point of view of the traditional suppliers of information (publishing houses, the press) as well as that of the beneficiaries of the networks and the information processing, the concern seems to be to control the channels: the publisher McGraw-Hill, after having spent \$10 million to develop "on-line" products, has bought DRI, the leader in on-line economic information, for \$103 million, Dun and Bradstreet, specialist in commercial information, payed 30 times the profits for NCSS, a "time-sharing" firm. In Europe, Pergamon-Preus has just bought back the British dealer Infoline. In this respect, the absence of French publishers is worrisome; the awakening may be painful.

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GROUND FORCES COMMUNICATIONS ARM VIEWED IN SOME DETAIL

Paris TAM in French 11 Sep 80 pp 20-21

[Article--passages between slantlines originally published in boldface]

[Text] Created nearly 40 years ago, the communications arm is youthful, alive, and in good health. Perhaps just because of its youth, it is perhaps not yet well known, all the more because its rapid evolution has often been hard to follow. No other arm, in fact, has experienced in so short a time such profound revolutions in means, organization, and structures, even in its missions.

Also, its activities are not spectacular like perhaps a cavalry charge or a concentration of artillery. Bound to great discretion in the very name of its mission, it does not attract media attention.

The "national communications days", held from 29 September to 5 October 1980 in all garrisons where communications units are installed, are aimed precisely at lifting the veil from this discreet but on how indispensable an arm.

In a general way, it can be said that communications are responsible for making possible the exercise of command by establishing the connections necessary to conduct information--verbal or written--in the form of orders, accounts, intelligence, documents, data. This mission has many aspects. For it is not only a question of links between two leaders--that part is easy--but of staffs, of whole groups of personnel articulated in numerous and diversified cells. It is not only a question of covering a certain zone but of vast spaces, beginning with the whole territory of the nation. It is also protecting communications systems against attack by the enemy--particularly electronic attacks--and, conversely, of impeding, neutralizing, the electronic activities of the enemy.

It is a question, finally, of keeping command informed, and helping it in its decision-making by means of information processing.

An Enterprise With 23,000 People

The communications arm pursues its activities in numerous fields which overlap and interpenetrate:

- forces
- infrastructure
- electronic warfare and cryptography
- data processing;

It numbers 15 regiments, 2 groups, and 133 companies.

It is everywhere: in France, in Germany, and overseas.

It employs about 23,000 people:

- 1,550 officers, including 40 woman officers
- 7,800 non-commissioned officers, including 1,500 female NCO's
- 12,000 men of the ranks
- 1,600 civilian personnel.

Everywhere, what distinguishes it is:

--its total integration in the combined command, to give it the means to fulfill its role of command and the possibility of attacking or intercepting enemy broadcasts, which demands imagination, competence, astuteness, and decisiveness on the part of the personnel;

--concrete and measurable results by which, under all circumstances, its actions are judged, for it works, in peacetime, at "full steam," which means in the same conditions that it would meet in case of crisis or war. There are no exercises or combined maneuvers of any importance without the effective participation of communications;

--the feeling of living in the very midst of a time marked by the explosion of electronics and data processing.

But one should not think, for all that, that the communications arm is a "technical" arm. Communicators only operate particular equipment, often no more complex or technical than those used by other arms. Of course communications has its technicians, some even of high level, but it remains, nevertheless, basically an arm where young people attracted by the command of men can hope to develop their skills.

At All Levels of Command

The communications arm is found at all levels of combined command.

--At the highest level of this command, the central directorate of communications, under the army general staff, participates in studies on

organization and the task of the arm, coordinates development, utilization, and support of the infrastructure of the permanent national communications network, administers a budget of 245 million Fr. per year, passes, along with the industrials, on the profitability of infrastructural equipment, assures the training of personnel, provides for the functioning of the data processing centers.

--At the level of each military region and large unit, the arm is represented by:

--a communications command, an organ of control, which plays a primordial role of technical advice to the combined command in matters of communications, and which directs infrastructure communications of the region;

--a communications unit whose size varies according to the level considered, responsible for supplying the means and putting them into operation: a company in each division, two or three regiments to each army corps, a branch regiment, a high command regiment, and electronic warfare units.

Independently of the formations above, infrastructure communications are assured by:

--a regiment which could be described as national, for, though its staff and support is in the Paris region, it has detachments in many points throughout the Hexagon;

--in each military region, in Germany and in Tahiti, a regiment or a utilization group on communications. Each of the formations above, whose staff is usually found at regional military headquarters, is divided into as many detachments as there are military divisions, major garrisons, combined colleges, camps, etc., to serve.

This organization insures that there are communicators--in small numbers sometimes--in many towns and that the equipment and machinery they put into operation are very diverse and very numerous, including 500 telegraph call-boxes, 400 telephone switchboards, 60,000 telephones.

Resources for automated data processing are concentrated in:

--two national centers one of which is especially responsible for processing logistical information;

--six regional centers, whose renovation with powerful and modern equipment is under way.

Evolution of the Eighties

Having already reached maturity and now enjoying some of the satisfying results, the communications arm will need all its vitality and enthusiasm its youthfulness can provide to take charge of the evolution of the Eighties.

In fact, if communications has expanded continuously since its creation, its growth and rate of modernization should soon receive unusual acceleration: a veritable technical and technological revolution has come in recent years with the general diffusion of data processing and, in a more general way, numerical techniques.

This "leap forward" will affect all the activities of communications and will have major repercussions on the structure of formations, the disposition of resources, and the training conditions of personnel. In 1982, the communications of the armed forces will begin to be provided by /an integrated network of automated transmission--RITA/--which will offer possibilities that simply cannot be compared with the presently utilized systems. We will content ourselves with indicating that anyone on the network, wherever he may be, even while in transit, will be able to be reached by a caller via automatic scanning.

The same techniques, starting in 1983, will make it possible to greatly increase the possibilities of the military infrastructure network--the integrated network of army communications--/RITTER--which covers the entire national territory with a chain of high-performance links, based on Hertzian tropospheric supports on direct line of sight, and on automatic or semi-automatic and (soon) electronic telegraphic and telephonic switchboards. In the domain of data processing, significant developments are also expected, particularly with the completion of a data communications network which will connect together the military regions and divisions.

The same goes for the development of telematics and bureautique [translation unknown], words which soon will be familiar to any enterprise concerned about adapting itself to its age.

The /electronic civilization/ is only beginning. It is the communications arm, the arm of electronics, which will undergo both the rapid and the most profound changes in the decade ahead. This is its big chance, to be inexorably swept along by the dynamic of progress.

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COUNTRY TO BUILD RESEARCH SATELLITE

Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 22 Aug 80 p 5

[Article by Hans Rehnvall: "Sweden Gets Own Research Satellite"]

[Text] The administration decided Thursday that Sweden will build a satellite for research of the earth's magnetic field. The satellite, named Viking, will help promote the Swedish space industry.

The State Space Agency, which developed the Viking-project (as described in SVENSKA DAGBLADET'S SCIENCE on 21 November last year), has now received the assignment from the administration to carry it further. The total cost of the project is estimated at 106 million kroner.

Magnetic Field Studied

Viking's scientific tasks are to study the outer parts of the magnetic field that surrounds the earth; and are affected by the radiation from the sun. This is important, among other things, for the understanding of such phenomena as the Northern Lights.

At the Space Agency, Viking's other tasks are considered just as important as the scientific ones: The high demand for quality, the demand for coordination within a large project, etc., will act as a stimulant for the Swedish space industry.

The plan is for Saab-Scania to be the main contractor, along with the American Boeing jet company as a subcontractor. Saab-Scania will carry the responsibility for scientific equipment, as well as the responsibility for the whole project in general, while Boeing will build the platform--the "mechanical" part of the satellite.

The plan is for Viking to be an extremely inexpensive satellite. The reason is that it will be launched along with a much larger satellite called Spot. Spot is mainly a French project, however, with certain Swedish interests. Spot is equipped with cameras for distance analysis of the earth's surface.

Spot and Viking will be launched with the European rocket Ariane from French Guyana in South America in May 1984--if all goes according to plan.

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